

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0753

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, CASC, SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1975 NBC INTERVIEW WITH  
AMB JOVA

FOR AMB JOVA, ARA/MEX

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT (BY USIS) OF YOUR SEPT 18 NBC INTERVIEW:

1. Q. WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR THE  
ENFORCEMENT OF DRUG LAWS IN MEXICO INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS?

A. WELL, AS A MEXICAN PROBLEM, WE CERTAINLY SUPPORT THE  
MEXICANS IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THEIR OWN LAWS WHICH ARE  
ANTI-DRUG AS WELL AS THEIR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TAKEN  
UNDER THE UN SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTICS.

2. Q. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION  
COOPERATE WITH THE JUDICIAL POLICE?

A. THROUGH EXCHANGING OF INTELLIGENCE. THE INTELLIGENCE  
WE COLLECT FROM PERSONS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL HERE. THROUGH  
TRAINING, THROUGH GIVING THEM EQUIPMENT AND THAT SORT OF  
THING.

3. Q. DOES THE DEA SUPPLY INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL  
OF AMERICANS INVOLVED IN IMPORTATION TO MEXICO, AS PART

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OF THE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION?

A. THEY ARE OBLIGED TO FURNISH INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF ANYBODY THAT IS SUSPECTED OF CARRYING DRUGS, JUST AS THE MEXICANS ARE OBLIGED BY TREATY TO HELP US.

4. Q. WHAT CAN THE EMBASSY DO WHEN AN AMERICAN GETS IN TROUBLE FOR VIOLATING A MEXICAN LAW?

A. WELL, RIGHT AWAY WE TRY TO SEE THEM. THIS IS QUITE APART FROM WHETHER THEY ARE GUILTY OR NOT. THIS IS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO OUTSIDERS. WE REALLY HAVE TWO CONCURRENT POLICIES. ONE IS THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION AND THEIR EFFORTS TO STOP THE DRUG TRADE AND THAT HAS TO HAVE OUR FULL SUPPORT--THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT, THE EMBASSY'S SUPPORT, THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL SUPPORT. THE OTHER PROBLEM IS THE PROTECTION OF AMERICANS WHETHER THEY ARE GUILTY OR NOT AND PROVIDING CONSULAR SERVICES TO THEM. SO THAT REALLY REQUIRES US TO CHANGE OUR HATS, IN MY OWN CASE. AND IN THE LOWER ECHELONS THERE ARE DIFFERENT SETS OF PEOPLE. OUR CONSULAR PEOPLE ARE CHARGED WITH GIVING THEM AS MUCH PROTECTION AS THEY CAN TO INSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT UNFAIRLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, TO INSURE THAT THEY HAVE ACCESS TO OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS READILY, THAT THEY HAVE ACCESS TO LEGAL HELP AND THAT ONCE IMPRISONED THAT THEY HAVE THE ASSISTANCE AND COMFORT, IF YOU WILL, OF CONTACT WITH THEIR CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES.

5. Q. WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT THE EMBASSY CANNOT DO?

A. WELL, DO NOT FORGET HERE THEY ARE TRIED UNDER MEXICAN LAW FOR VIOLATING MEXICAN LAWS. THEREFORE TO THAT EXTENT, IT IS A MEXICAN PROBLEM, MEXICO HAS JURISDICTION AND WE CANNOT INTERFERE WITH THAT JURISDICTION ANYMORE THAN MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICERS CAN INTERFERE WITH THE CARRYING OUT OF AMERICAN LAWS ON OUR SOIL. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE CAN TRY TO INSURE THAT THE MATTER (?) IS UNDERSTOOD OF MEXICAN LAW AS APPLIED TO AMERICANS.

6. 1. DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS A MISCONCEPTION AMONG A NUMBER OF THOSE ARRESTED ON WHAT EMBASSY SERVICES THEY HAVE BEEN ENTITLED TO?

A. I AM SURE OF THIS. AND ON THE PART OF THEIR FAMILIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE. TWO THINGS..IN SOME CASES WE ARE REALLY DEALING WITH HARDENED CRIMINALS IF YOU WILL WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED REPEATEDLY AND IN OTHER INSTANCES WE ARE DEALING WITH MISGUIDED YOUNGER PEOPLE PERHAPS THAT HAVE FOULED UP; HOPEFULLY ON A ONE-TIME BASIS, AND THAT IS ALL THE MORE TRAGIC. WELL, NATURALLY THERE IS A WILFULL MISINTERPRETATION, IF YOU WILL, ON THE PART OF THE HARDENED CRIMINALS. IN THE CASE OF THE RELATIVELY INNOCENT PEOPLE,

THE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T HABITUAL CRIMINALS BUT HAVE DONE SOMETHING WRONG, HAVE DONE SOMETHING ILLEGAL, AND THERE LIES FREQUENTLY THE MISCONCEPTION OF WHAT THE EMBASSY'S ROLE IS, WHAT THE US GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IS AND, UNDERSTANDABLY, BAFFLEMENT ON THE PART OF THEIR PARENTS, WHO ARE OFTEN DISTRACTED ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THEIR CHILDREN. AND IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMBASSY CANNOT GET THEM OUT OF JAIL, THAT THEY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO MEXICAN LAW, AND IF THEY ARE FOUND GUILTY MUST SERVE THEIR SENTENCES, AND ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY TO INSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT ABUSED--THAT THEY ARE NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST FOR BEING FOREIGNERS RATHER THAN MEXICANS, AND ONCE IN JAIL ATTEMPT TO GIVE THEM HUMANITARIAN SERVICES.

7. Q. YOU USED THE WORD ABUSE. A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HAS RAISED QUESTIONS OF THE PHYSICAL ABUSE, INCLUDING TORTURE, UPON ARREST AT THE MEXICO CITY AIRPORT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S TESTIMONY FOUND NO FIRM EVIDENCE OF SUCH ABUSES IN A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF CASES INVESTIGATED. I UNDERSTAND THE EMBASSY HAS SENT EIGHT NOTES TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS CONCERNING PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT. HOW DO YOU RECONCILE THOSE TWO FACTS?

A. WELL, FIRST WE HAVE TO SAY THAT THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS OF PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT WHICH SOMETIMES MAY NOT BE TRUE, BECAUSE AFTER ALL, IF YOU ARE IMPRISONED--WHY YOU SEARCH DESPERATELY FOR SOME AMELIORATION AND ALLEGING ABUSES IS A FAVORED DEVICE. I CAN SAY THAT IT IS NOT MEXICAN POLICY TO ABUSE PRISONERS AND THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONDONE THIS. NATURALLY, YOU KNOW WHAT PRISON CONDITIONS ARE AT HOME ALSO, AND UNDOUBTEDLY HERE ALSO THERE HAVE BEEN CASES WHERE PERHAPS IN SOME CASES, STIMULATED BY THE MISBEHAVIOR OF A PRISONER, AND SOME CASES DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS, THE BOUND MAY HAVE BEEN OVERSTEPPED BY AN OVERZEALOUS GUARD, BUT THIS IS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONDONED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, AND IN CASES WHEN EVEN ALLEGATIONS HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION WE RAISE IT WITH THEM AND WE HAVE FOUND AN UNDERSTANDING ATTITUDE ON THEIR PART.

8. Q. LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ARREST PROCEDURE ON THE DEPORTATION CHARGES AT THE MEXICO CITY AIRPORT. ALL THE ALLEGATIONS I HAVE SEEN, MOST OF THEM, CERTAINLY THE MORE DRAMATIC ONES, HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED THERE, IN THE FIRST 24-HOUR PERIOD UPON ARREST. IN YOUR PERSONAL JUDGEMENT, HAS THIS MISTREATMENT OCCURRED?

A. IT'S DIFFICULT TO TELL WHAT THE BORDERLINE IS ON PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT OF THE HUMAN BEING; EMOTIONAL TREATMENT, AFTER ALL, A PERSON IN THAT SITUATION IS QUITE OUT OF HIS WITS. HE HAS BEEN CAUGHT WITH THE GOODS ON HIM.

9. Q. WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL JUDGEMENT OF WHETHER IT HAS OCCURRED?

A. WHAT SHALL I SAY TO THAT?

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10. Q. IN YOUR PERSONAL JUDGMENT, HAS THERE BEEN PHYSICAL ABUSE AT THE AIRPORT INTERROGATIONS UPON ARREST FOR IMPORTATION?

A. WELL, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL ALLEGATIONS TO THAT EFFECT, AND EACH TIME WE HAVE INVESTIGATED, WE HAVE ASKED THE MEXICANS TO INVESTIGATE. I THINK THAT THIS IS A VERY DELICATE AREA. AFTER ALL, THE PERSONS INVOLVED ARE IN A CRITICAL POSITION. THEY COME, PERHAPS QUITE SELF-ASSUREDLY, THEY HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY THE ARREST, EXAMINATION OF THEIR PERSON, THEY HAVE BEEN CAUGHT WITH THE GOODS ON THEM, OR THE GOODS IN THEIR BAGGAGE, THEY FREQUENTLY ARE QUITE DISTRAUGHT, THE MEXICANS HAVE INTERROGATED THEM, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OCCASIONALLY AN INTERROGATION HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE VIOLENT THAN ONE WOULD HAVE LIKED, BUT THIS HAPPENS AT HOME ALSO, AND THAT WE ARE WITNESSING HERE A CLASH OF CULTURES, IF YOU WILL, THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF APPROACH HERE THAN AT HOME, THE PERSON WHO HAS BEEN ARRESTED IS ALSO IN A STRANGE ATMOSPHERE, IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE SOMETIMES. THEREFORE HE OR SHE IS MORE APT TO CONSIDER THIS HARSH INTERROGATION. WE DO THINK, AND WE HAVE BROUGHT THIS UP REPEATEDLY WITH THE

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, AND AS WE KNOW THAT THE MEXICAN RECORD REALLY ON CIVIL RIGHTS IS A VERY GOOD ONE, THEIR POSITION IS VERY CLEAR ON CIVIL RIGHTS, THEREFORE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE MET A RECEPTIVE RECEPTION ON THE PART OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES; AND I WOULD SAY THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE MODERATION IN THE ORIGINAL INTERROGATION NOW THAT AT ONE TIME. HOWEVER, TO SAY -- TO GO SO FAR AS TO SAY -- THAT THERE IS ACTUAL ABUSE, PHYSICAL ABUSE, IS GOING RATHER FAR.

1. Q. THE TESTIMONY OF STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT CONSULAR OFFICIALS SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THOSE ARRESTED AMERICANS WHO REQUEST ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY, AS THE VIENNA CONVENTION ALLOWS. IT WOULD LAY TO REST THE QUESTION OF PHYSICAL ABUSE BECAUSE ANY ABUSE WOULD BE REAILY APPARENT IF THERE WERE PROMPTNESS OF CONTACT. I REALIZE MEXICAN LAW ALLOWS THEM TO BE HELD A CERTAIN PERIOD. WHAT PROGRESS HAVE YOU MADE TOWARD RECONCILING THE VIENNA CONVENTION WITH MEXICAN LAW?

A. WE ALSO HAVE A BILATERAL CONSULAR CONVENTION BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE U.S. ON THIS AND THIS IS COVERED IN THAT BILATERAL CONVENTION ALSO. THIS AGAIN IS A QUESTION OF EDUCATION. DON'T EVER FORGET THAT WE ARE DEALING NOT ONLY WITH THE MEXICO CITY POLICE, THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE, BUT ALSO THE STATE POLICE OF THE VARIOUS CAPITALS OR CITIES IN MEXICO, WHICH AFTER ALL HAS A FEDERAL SYSTEM SOMEWHAT LIKE OUR OWN. THEREFORE, IT IS A QUESTION OF EDUCATION. DON'T FORGET THAT THE PRISONER ISSUE IS REALLY A NEW ONE. IF YOU EXAMINE THE SITUATION HERE THREE YEARS AGO, FOR INSTANCE, PEOPLE (WERE) PICKED UP ON AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS OR OCCASIONAL PRIVATE VIOLENCE OR SOMETHING OF THAT SORT; BUT THE PRISONER POPULATION WASPROBABLY VERY VERY REDUCED. THEREFORE WE ARE FACED WITH SOMETHIN QUITE NEW, NUMEROUS PEOPLE COMING THROUGHT HERE ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE DRUGS INTO THE UNITED STATES OR SOMETIMES INTO MEXICO AS A WAY-STATION. THEREFORE, IT HAS NOT ONLY BEEN A QUESTION OF EDUCATING OURSELVES, BUT ALSO THE MEXICANS AS TO THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED WITHIN THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. BUT I THINK WE ARE MAKING PROGRESSM

12. Q. WHEN YOU BOIL IT DOWN, NOW, ARE THOSE ARRESTED BEING ALLOWED, IF THEY REQUEST IT, PHONE CALLS TO THE EMBASSY WITHIN THE FIRST DAY OR TWO?

A. THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED; I WILL PUT IT THAT WAY.  
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CERTAINLY AFTER THE FIRST 73 HOURS, THERE IS ACCESS IF WE HEAR OF THEM. OTHERWISE WE GET ACCESS AT ONCE. WHAT WE HAVE TO DON, REALLY IS TO PERUSADE THE MEXICANS, BECAUSE THIS IS NOT IN THE CONVENTION NOR IN THE VIENNA TREATY EITHER, TO NOTIFY US ON THE ARREST OF AN AMERICAN. THAT WOULD HELP GREATLY.

13. Q. THERE IS ANOTHER ITEM IN MY CONVERSATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT INGRIGUTED ME BRIEFLY. MR. WALENTYNOWICZ SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING NO ONE HAD EVER BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE THE AIRPORT POLICE OFFICE IN WHICH THE ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE WERE PRESENTED. IS THAT TRUE? THERE WAS SOME QUESTION IF THE OFFICE EVEN EXISTED.

A. WELL, THAT MAY WELL BE. I AM NOT EVEN SURE THAT THEY HAVE A SPECIFIC OFFICE THAT THEY USE EACH TIME. OBVIOUSLY THE WHOLE AIRPORT IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF MEXICAN AUTHORITIES AND THERE ARE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES THERE WHERE THEY COULD TAKE ONE.

14. Q. THERE IS NO ONE IN THE EMBASSY THAT HAS MADE INDEPENDENT EFFORT TO GATHER INFORMATION TO VERIFY OR DISAPPROVE ALLEGATIONS?

A. WELL, WE HAVE INTERVIEWED THE PRISONERS WHO MADE THE ALLEGATIONS. WE TAKE IT UP WITH THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES AND WE ASK THEM TO INTERVIEW THEIR OWN OFFICERS. I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND WE WOULDN'T PERMIT THAT AT HOME EITHER FOR A MEXICAN CONSULAR OR MEXICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL TO GO DOWN INTO THE HIERARCHY OF OUR VARIOUS POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND INTERVIEW INDIVIDUALS.

15. Q. IT ONLY SURPRISED ME THAT WALENTYNOWICZ HAD SAID THAT TWO DAYS AGO WHEN WE WERE IN HIS OFFICE A HALF HOUR. (REQUEST OF QUESTION UNINTELLIGIBLE.)

A. LET'S REASSURE HIM, AND I'LL CERTAINLY ASK OUR CONSULAR PERSONNEL WHO ARE THE ONES THAT INTERVIEW THE PRISONERS OR THOSE ACCUSED TO CONFIRM IT.

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16. Q. I WANT TO GET INTO A TOUCHY SITUATION. THERE WERE ALLEGATIONS THAT A FORMER MEMBER OF THE CONSULAR STAFF HAD MADE REFERRALS TO FAMILIES FOR A QUESTIONABLE MEXICAN LAWYER - POSSIBLY A LAWYER WHO DID OBTAIN THOUSANDS OF

DOLLARS WITHOUT THE SERVICES RENDERED THEY EXPECTED. AT ONE POINT, ALTHOUGH HE RETRACTED IT, A PERSON SIGNED A STATEMENT THAT SAID FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, ON MANY OCCASIONS, THE CONSULAR OFFICIAL HAD INDEED RECOMMENDED HIM. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THAT INVESTIGATION?

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A. WELL, I AM AWARE OF THOSE ALLEGATIONS AND THOSE WERE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND TO ME PERSONALLY. THE FIRST THING I ASKED TO BE DONE OUT OF FAIRNESS, NOT ONLY TO THE PRISONERS BUT MOST OF ALL TO THE PERSON INVOLVED WAS THAT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION BE CARRIED OUT BY OUR OFFICE OF SECURITY AFFAIRS. AND THEY DID THIS. AND NOT ONE SCINTILLA OF EVIDENCE WAS FOUND TO CONFIRM THIS. FOR ONE THING, I CAN'T RECALL ALL THE DETAILS OF THE CASE BUT I RECALL ONE ASPECT OF IT. ON THE ONE DATE WHEN THE ALLEGATION WAS MADE THAT THE VICE CONSUL HAD MADE A TELEPHONE CALL TO THE FAMILY IN THE STATES SUGGESTING THAT THEY PUT UP THE MONEY, IT TURNS OUT THAT HE WAS NOT IN MEXICO CITY. HE HAD TRAVEL DOCUMENTS CONFIRMING THAT HE WAS TRAVELIN IN THE PROVINCES VISITING PRISONERS ELSEWHERE AND THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT A LONG DISTANCE CALL WAS MADE FROM THE TOWN WHERE HE WAS THAT TIME. THAT IS ONLY ONE OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE CASE WHICH CASTS COMPLETE DOUBT ON THESE ALLEGATIONS. THEN, AS YOU'VE VERY WELL POINTED OUT, JIM, THE ATTORNEY OR THE SO-CALLED ATTORNEY, THERE'S

SOME QUESTION OF HIS LEGAL STATUS, DID SIGN A DOCUMENT CLAIMING THAT HE HAD BEEN PAID OFF OR GIVEN - HAD MADE PAYMENTS. BUT IT TURNED OUT THAT HE HAD SIGNED THIS WHEN HE HIMSELF WAS IN PRISON PURPORTEDLY AT THE MERCY OF OF SOME OF THE PRISONERS. AND ONCE HE GOT OUT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRISON HE MADE A SECOND STATEMENT RETRACTING COMPLETELY THE PREVIOUS ONE.

17. Q. WELL, HIS WORD HASN'T BEEN RELIABLE IN THE PAST...

A. WELL, I THINK THIS IS VERY TRUE, HE HAS A RATHER MURKY BACKGROUND.

18. Q. TO REGRESS A MOMENT, IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE (THE ALLEGATION OF) THE PHONE CALL CONSIDERING THE AGE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CALL MAY, AS I UNDERSTAND IT WHERE HE SIMPLY SAID YOU COULD BE OUT TOMORROW FOR SUCH AND SUCH AN AMOUNT. THE ATTORNEY WOULD PUT THE SCREWS ON THE PROSECUTOR AND THE COURT.

A. IT COULD HAVE BEEN. I WOULDN'T VENTURE TO GIVE AN OPINION ON THAT PARTICULAR. OF COURSE, OUR REGULATIONS ARE QUITE CLEAR. OUR OFFICERS ARE PROHIBITED FROM RECOMMENDING ANY ATTORNEY. WE ARE LIMITED TO GIVING LISTS OF ATTORNEYS TO ANY AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO ASKS FOR IT.

19. Q. THIS LEADS TO ANOTHER QUESTION. BECAUSE A FAMILY WHOSE SON AND DAUGHTER WERE DOWN HERE THIS PAST SUMMER SAY THAT THEY WERE TOLD BY AN OFFICIAL IN THE DEA ABOUT WAYS WHICH THEY MIGHT HELP THE PRISONER CONCERNED. "I CAN GIVE YOU A NAME OF AN ATTORNEY-AN ATTORNEY- HE'S CROOKED IT WOULD BE A BIG EXPENSE (?) BECAUSE HE'S CROOKED HE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP OUT." IT WAS INFORMAL TO THEM. THEY REJECTED IT BECAUSE IT WAS THEIR FEELING THEY HAD BEEN BURNED ONCE AND THEY WERE SURPRISED THE OVERTURE WAS MADE. BECAUSE THERE IS THAT REPUTATION THAT MONEY WILL OCCASSIONALLY WORK IN SOME CIRCLES IN MEXICO WHERE STRAIGHTFORWARD APPROACHES WOULD NOT...(A. LET'S NOT LIMIT THAT TO MEXICO).

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20. Q. NOT AT ALL BECAUSE THAT REPUTATION DOES EXIST IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CERTAIN PERSONS IN THE EMBASSY MADE INFORMAL REFERRALS IN WHICH THEY MISJUDGED THE CAPACITY OF THE PERSONS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE LIST.

A. NOW THIS IS NEWS TO ME. IF THIS IS TRUE I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO KNOW WHO IT IS.

21. Q. HE MENTIONED, I BELIEVE MEDINA?

A. IF SO, HE WAS CERTAINLY ACTING AGAINST INSTRUCTIONS IN A FIELD WHERE HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ACT.

22. Q. IT DOES OCCUR TO ME IT'S POSSIBLE BECAUSE...

A. IT MAY HAVE BEEN...WELL...A WELL-INTENTIONED THING EXCEPT FOR ONE THING, PAYOLA IS PAYOLA. AS YOU KNOW IN YOUR OWN PROFESSION THIS IS SOMETHING...

23. Q. IT MAY HAVE BEEN WELL-INTENTIONED...WHAT I WAS ASKING IN EFFECT...

A. SAY I CONSULT AN ATTORNEY...(CONGEN F. SMITH-"I WAS TRYING TO SUGGEST THAT FREQUENTLY THAT THIS HAPPENS IN ALL SORTS OF CASES. PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOMETIMES A LOCAL EMPLOYEE OR SOMEBODY WHO IS NOT EVEN CONNECTED TO THE EMBASSY, IS REPRESENTED AS AN OFFICIAL.")

24. Q. I MENTIONED A SPECIFIC DEA.

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A. MEDINA IS MENTIONED. THEREFORE, IT MUST HAVE BEEN OVER A YEAR AGO.  
(UNINTELLIGIBLE BREAK)

25. Q. ALONG THE LINES OF OUR PREVIOUS QUESTION, IS IT

POSSIBLE THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT NAIVE ABOUT WHAT SERVICES MEXICAN ATTORNEYS ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE?

A. EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REGULATIONS ARE QUITE STRICT. OUR CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN VERY WELL BRIEFED ON THIS. THEY'RE LIMITED TO GIVING, AS I SAID EARLIER, LISTS OF ATTORNEYS, WHEN REQUESTED, WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO RECOMMEND ANY SPECIFIC ATTORNEY. IT THUS SURPRISES ME THAT THIS ALLEGATION HAS BEEN MADE. IT IS ALSO, OF COURSE, THE PERSON INVOLVED MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE BEEN WITH THE EMBASSY OR WITH A CONSULATE. MANY TIMES WELL MEANING OUTSIDERS ATTEMPT TO GIVE ADVICE. SOMETIMES NOT EVEN WELL-MEANING, SELF-SERVING ADVISERS ATTEMPT TO GIVE ADVICE AND CLAIM CONNECTION WITH THE EMBASSY WHEN IN FACT THERE IS NONE.

26. Q. IN SUMMARY, WHAT WOULD BE THE OPTIMUM RESPONSE YOU MIGHT EXPECT FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE PROBLEMS THE PRISONERS WOULD RAISE?

A. WELL, IN THIS, LIKE ANYTHING ELSE, THERE IS NOTHING LIKE PERSONAL CONTACT. THERE IS NOTHING LIKE DIALOGUING, TO REALLY EXAMINE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND I THINK ON THIS SCORE OUR RECORD WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS IMPROVED GREATLY. WE HAVE OPENED UP ACCESS FOR DIALOGUING AND FOR DISCUSSION OF CASES AT A SERIES OF LEVELS WITHIN THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, RIGHT FROM THE TOP-OR NEAR THE TOP- DOWN TO PRISON WARDENS, IF YOU WILL, AND I THINK THAT OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS, OUR DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS, AND I, MYSELF, CAN HAVE SOME CREDIT FOR BEING VERY AGGRESSIVE IN OPENING UP THESE AVENUES OF DIALOGUE AND ACTUALLY WHEN YOU CAN DISCUSS MATTERS YOU CAN FREQUENTLY REACH AN UNDERSTANDING. NOW THIS, OF COURSE, IS ALL WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF MEXICAN LAW.

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27. Q. FROM THE ENFORCEMENT ASPECT, IN THAT AREA, HAS  
THE TRAFFIC DIMINISHED AS THE ARRESTS HAVE INCREASED?

A. THAT IS SOMETHING I AM UNABLE TO ANSWER, ONE  
CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON THAT. OF COURSE, ONE HEARS THAT  
THE AMOUNTS OF DRUGS ENTERING THE US, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE  
IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONFIRM, FROM OR THROUGH MEXICO HAS  
BEEN QUITE HIGH. KEEP IN MIND THAT THE BULK OF THE  
ARRESTS THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ARE PEOPLE TRANSITING  
MEXICO. PEOPLE BRINGING IN, THIS IS NOT TRUE OF ALL OF  
THEM, BUT A GREAT MANY OF THE ONES WHO ARE HERE  
FOR INSTANCE IN MEXICO CITY, AND IN SOME CASES  
MARIJUANA BUT WERE CAUGHT BRINGING IN COCAINE-  
USUALLY COCAINE FROM LATIN AMERICA, THROUGH HERE,  
PERHAPS IN TRANSIT, PERHAPS THERE INTENTION WAS ONLY  
TO BE AT THE AIRPORT BETWEEN PLANES. AND THEY THOUGHT  
THUS THAT THEY WERE SAFE. BUT THEY ACTUALLY WERE  
ENTERING ON MEXICAN SOIL AND THUS WERE SUBJECT TO MEXICAN  
AUTHORITY EVEN IN A TRANSIT STATUS. THERE HAS, HOWEVER,  
I CAN SAY THIS, THAT THERE HAS BEEN DIMINUTION OF THE  
ARRESTS OF LATE AND CERTAINLY OF THE AIRPORT ARRESTS.  
PERHAPS, YOU SEE, THERE IS A SPANISH SAYING THAT SAYS  
"NO HAY MAL QUE POR BIEN NO VENGA."--IT IS AN ILL WIND  
THAT BLOWS NO GOOD. AND THE ARRESTS, IN SPITE OF THE AMOUNT  
OF HUMAN SUFFERING IT'S CAUSED TO THE INDIVIDUAL AND TO  
THE INDIVIDUAL'S FAMILY--PARTICULARLY I AM THINKING OF  
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THOSE THAT ARE ONE TIMERS AND RELATIVELY NAIVE YOUNGER  
PEOPLE, IS VERY GREAT. BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THIS  
HAS SERVED AS A WARNING TO OTHERS NOT TO ENGAGE IN THIS  
TRAFFIC, WHICH REALLY IS VERY BAD, IT IS THREATENING THE  
WHOLE FABRIC OF OUR OWN COUNTRY. WELL, IF THERE HAS BEEN  
A DIMINUTION IN TRAFFIC THROUGH MEXICO AT LEAST THIS IS  
ALL TO THE GOOD.

28. Q. THANK YOU.

A. THANK YOU, JIM, VERY MUCH.

29. Q. NOT AT ALL.

(PRODUCTION DIALOGUE)

FOLLOWING THE PRODUCTION DIALOGUE THE EMBASSY TRANSCRIPT  
CARRIES A FEW ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHICH WE ARE NOT SURE WERE ACTUALLY PART OF THE INTERVIEW.  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE ARE SENDING THSE ALONG.

30. Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS  
IN THE PRISON AND THE PRISONERS' CONDITION FROM THE EMBASSY'S  
OWN OBSERVANCES?

A. WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT I CAN  
BE PROUD OF THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT WE NOW HAVE WORKING  
ON THE PRISONER PROGRAM. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I CAN BE  
PROUD BECAUSE I HELPED CHOOSE THEM MYSELF. WE HAVE PETE  
WOODS, WHOM YOU ALREADY INTERVIEWED IN CALIFORNIA AND WE  
HAVE DONNA HRINAK, BOTH OF THEM VICE CONSULS, BOTH YOUNG,  
BOTH IDEALISTIC, BOTH ABLE TO BE AT LEAST IN PART, ON THE  
SAME WAVE LENGTH AS THE PRISONERS. AND I THINK THAT THAT  
IS VERY IMPORTANT, THAT WE HAVE TYPE OF COMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPED, THAT TYPE OF HUMANE, INTEREST, AND I HAVE  
DONNA HERE WITH ME, AND PETE ALSO.

31. Q. PETE, I UNDERSTAND THAT LECUMBERRI IS TO BE  
REPLACED AS A PRISON?

A. (WOOD) YES, THIS IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE IN STAGES,  
AND I HAVE RECEIVED TWO UNOFFICIAL REPORTS, RECENTLY, THAT  
THE FIRST OF FOUR NEW PRISONS IS DUE TO OPEN ABOUT A MONTH  
FROM NOW AND PRESUMABLY, THAT WILL MEAN THAT SOME OF  
THE PEOPLE IN LECUMBERRI WILL BE TRANSFERRED OVER TO  
THE NEW INSTITUTION.  
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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 SNM-02 DEAE-00 L-03 H-02 IO-10 DHA-02 /056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0758

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32. Q. WHAT ARE THE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS THERE NOW?  
A. (WOOD) THEY VARY FROM DORMITORY TO DORMITORY.  
BUT, IN ACTUAL FACT THE PRISON PROVIDES THE PRISONERS  
WITH VERY LITTLE ASIDE FROM A CELL AND POSSIBLY A MATTRESS  
AND MAYBE A ROOM TO CARRY ON SOME COOKING OR SO FORTH.  
AND THAT'S PARTLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE CUSTOM HERE  
IS THAT THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF PEOPLE IN PRISON BRING  
IN FOOD AND CLOTHES AND BLANKETS AND THE NECESSARY ITEMS  
FOR COMFORTABLE LIVING.

33. Q. DONNA, WHAT SERVICES IS THE EMBASSY ABLE TO  
PROVIDE TO THE PRISONERS?  
A. (DONNA) I THINK THAT ONE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE  
THINGS THAT WE'VE BEEN SETTING UP, ARE EDUCATIONAL COURSES  
FOR THE PRISONERS. COURSES PROVIDED BY THE NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO HERE AND COURSES WHICH WILL BE  
PROVIDED HOPEFULLY BY THE FIRST OF THE YEAR BY COLLEGES,  
JUNIOR COLLEGES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES,  
IN THE STATES. WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO GET FUNDING  
FOR THESE COURSES. WE HAVE SPANISH CLASSES THAT GO ON  
SPONSORED BY THE SALVATION ARMY. AND WHAT WE TRY TO DO  
IS MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HERE TO  
PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CLASSES FOR THEM. (REST OF ANSWER  
UNINTELLIGIBLE).

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34. Q. ARE CONDITIONS IN THE WOMEN'S PRISON COMPARABLE  
TO THOSE IN THE MEN'S?  
A. (DONNA) THE WOMEN'S PRISON IS RELATIVELY NEW  
COMPARED TO LECUMBERRI. IT WAS BUILT 21 YEARS AGO, IT IS  
OVERCROWDED, BUT CERTAIN AREAS ARE FAR SUPERIOR TO THE  
MEN'S PRISON. I'M PARTICULARLY THINKING OF THE NURSERY  
WHERE THE CHILDREN OF THE MARRIED PRISONERS CAN BE KEPT  
AND GO TO SCHOOL. THERE'S A DOCTOR ON 24 HOUR CALL.  
THERE'S A NURSE ALWAYS PRESENT. THAT FACILITY IS 5 YEARS  
OLD AND IS KEPT VERY CLEAN AND MANY..(UNINTELLIGIBLE).  
(WOOD) ANOTHER ITEM THEY HAVE THERE IS A LARGE  
VEGETABLE GARDEN THAT MANY OF THE WOMEN PRISONERS-THEY  
HAVE THEIR OWN AREA-GROW THEIR OWN VEGETABLES.

35. Q. THANK YOU.  
BRANDIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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